

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



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S E C R E T

December 13, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant for Inter and Intra
Agency Liaison
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

SUBJECT: Reciprocity in the Activation of Embassy
Radio Transmitters

In connection with your inquiry concerning reciprocity, an inconclusive examination of our files indicates that formal requests for authority to establish transmitters in their Washington Embassies have been received from Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Yugoslavia, Egypt and Korea.

The matter has been discussed informally by representatives of the British Embassy among others.

In addition, to our knowledge, the Washington missions of Rumania and Hungary have initiated transmissions without requests for prior approval, both being requested by formal diplomatic note to cease such illegal transmissions.

If it is essential that a more complete list be compiled we will endeavor to undertake the necessary research of files.

Robert G. Kreer
Chief

Division of Communication Services

State & OGC reviews completed

OCC:LRH:mco
30 November 1956

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Brundage:

On November 21, 1956, Mr. Roger W. Jones forwarded to this Agency a proposed amendment to Section 305 of the Communications Act of 1934 and a letter from the Department of State to you recommending that the President request the Congress to enact this amendment. This Agency is vitally interested in this matter and feels that it is important to the national interest that this amendment be enacted.

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Such a threat to the national defense and security is serious enough in normal times but becomes appalling under emergency conditions such as exist in Central Europe and the Middle East at the present time. As an

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We therefore believe that the fundamental authorization for reciprocity is essential and that the proposed amendment granting such reciprocity is so drafted as to eliminate or minimize the other problems encountered.

As to the effect on American commercial carriers, it is our belief that they will object to the amendment on principle but that they cannot actually demonstrate any great potential loss of revenue and that, therefore, the benefit to the national interest would far outweigh the detriment to them.

It is our belief that few countries would actually install radio facilities at their diplomatic missions here due partly to the expense involved and partly to the fact that the majority of the countries represented do not possess the technical facilities to handle their communications under the

100-watt limitation which is contemplated. We, on the other hand, operate our network with 100-watt transmitters working through a series of bases and so are in no way hampered by this limitation. Consequently the bulk of the present commercial traffic would continue.

On the technical aspects we agree also with the conclusions in the letter from the Department of State that under the conditions contemplated the operation of stations involved would not interfere with other radio services in this country.

This complex problem has received the closest study for several years, and we have from the start felt the urgency for establishment of reciprocal rights.

We believe the need for amendment to the 1934 Act is understood by all agencies concerned, and we, therefore, believe that the proposal forwarded to you by the Department of State should become part of the President's legislative program and its enactment should be sought as early in the next session of the Congress as circumstances permit.

Due to the classified nature of much of the information pertaining to our communications network and of the information set forth above, we believe that the Department of State should continue to be the proponent of this new legislation, but, as we are so vitally concerned, we wish to be of assistance in any manner possible and will furnish information in support of our position in any circumstances where adequate assurance can be given of protection of so much of the information as is classified.

Very truly yours,